

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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April 27, 1999 LB 663

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 663. Excuse me.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: All right. Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. LB 663 is a bill to appropriate \$150,000 to the State Historical Society that represents one-half of the cost of reconstructing what is now referred to as the Cheyenne Outbreak Barracks Building at Fort Robinson State Park. It's anticipated that the other half of the construction cost will be raised privately and, in fact, if it isn't, nothing will happen. There is a handout that we've distributed to give you a little bit of information about the barracks. It is...was an extremely historical building. The site, as I mentioned, was the building that the Cheyenne were housed in when they broke out on January 9, a story that has been immortalized in books and films. It is the desire to reconstruct the building so that people can see what it looked like, it was a log building, and to have an opportunity to memorialize, literally, the dedication of the Cheyenne to their way of life and, I think, their rather extreme heroism that they displayed that night on January 9 in their attempt to break out and to go back to their homeland. It is, I hope you find, a fitting objective for us. The location of the building would be at building number 11 on the map that you see attached to the materials I've handed out. The picture on the second page is a depiction of what it might have looked like inside the barracks as the Cheyenne were digging a hole underneath the building to protect themselves against possible cannon fire from the soldiers who were outside. It...as I said, it was an extremely historic event that occurred at Fort Robinson. Reconstructing the barracks to memorialize not only that event but the Cheyenne tribe itself I think is entirely appropriate, and I would hope that you'll support the bill.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Introduce the amendment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker...Mr. President, members of the Legislature. This is a simple amendment. It's got a few dollars in it. It's not \$2.5 million; it's \$2,500. Most of you have read and heard about the Native American remains and the problem with the discarding them and where they were found at the university. This is along them lines, but not near as serious. Out there at the fort, they found a place where Native Americans have been